

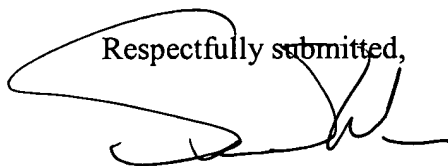
CONCLUSION

A check in the amount of \$102.00 is enclosed to pay for the additional claims fees. It is believed that no additional fees are due because of this Preliminary Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees caused by this filing and grant of this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account Number 04-1425. A duplicate copy of this Amendment is enclosed for that purpose.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Date: April 2, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the claims:**

Please add the following new claims:

--30. (New) An open interoperable apparatus in a distributed control system, the open interoperable apparatus comprising:

a local time clock for providing a local time for use within said open interoperable apparatus;

a system time clock for providing a system time across said distributed control system; and

a system management kernel for synchronizing said local time clock with said system time clock.

31. (New) The open interoperable apparatus in accordance with claim 30, further comprising:

a first network interface for communicating with a first network having a communication protocol stack;

a device access agent which emulates mapping of an access sublayer of at least one legacy format service message of said distributed control system to a network format message compatible with said communication protocol stack; and

a system management kernel local interface through which said device access agent communicates with said system management kernel

32. (New) An apparatus in a distributed control system, comprising:

a first network interface for communicating with a first network having a communication protocol stack; and

a device access agent that maps an access sublayer of at least one legacy format service message of said distributed control system to a network format message compatible with said communication protocol stack.--